of the lost resources either in dollars or in resource units such as acres of trees, square feet of sand beach, cubic meters of seagrass sediment, or numbers of organisms. The compensation value determined is added to the cost of primary restoration actions to make up the total restoration claim.

The final stages of the damage assessment and restoration process—restoration planning and implementation—have recently become more active. "More and more damage settlements are now being reached, and we are beginning to restore resources at more parks," says Tammy Whittington, manager of the Restoration Program Unit in Denver, which helps parks in planning and implementing restorations.

"The assessment and settlement phases are complex and time-consuming," says Whittington. "Settling a claim can take years. And then more planning is required before the actual physical restoration can occur. Most cases we get require not only a restoration plan but also National Environmental Policy Act compliance, public participation, and permits."

Nevertheless, Whittington and Hamson are encouraged by the number of new projects now in or entering the restoration phase. New initiatives include the restoration of tidal marshland at Golden Gate

"The ERDAR Branch has helped settle dozens of cases, resulting in the collection of more than $16 million for restoration or replacement of injured resources."

National Recreation Area (California), breakwater restoration at San Juan National Historic Site (Puerto Rico), dune reconstruction and habitat enhancement at Padre Island National Seashore (Texas), and shoreline stabilization and dock replacement projects at the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center (Hawaii).

The ERDAR program is also helping parks promote collaborative restoration efforts. One example is an ongoing series of workshops with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration focusing on ways to better coordinate and collaborate on coral reef and seagrass restorations. This partnership is especially appealing to Canzanelli, who says, "The enhanced restoration program will significantly benefit Biscayne's vital coral reef and seagrass habitats." ■

joe_carriero@nps.gov
Environmental Engineer, Environmental Quality Division; Lakewood, Colorado

George Dickison recognized for GIS contributions

The 2002 recipient of the Director's Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resources is George Dickison, GIS and Information Resources Team Manager at the Alaska Support Office. As the leader of Alaska's GIS program, George had a vision to produce an integrated package of GIS data, software tools, and data management procedures that would enable park staff to utilize GIS technology without requiring the assistance of GIS professionals, or as he puts it, "GIS in an other-duties-as-assigned atmosphere." Not only has he realized this vision for the Alaska parks, but also his team's software tools have become the National Park Service standard for the Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) Program and the fire management program.

When George joined the National Park Service 11 years ago, he assessed the GIS needs of the Alaska parks and refocused his team's efforts to meet those needs. He developed a creative approach for vegetation mapping that involved working with other agencies that had the same interests. Through partnerships with the I&M Program, FirePro Program, USGS EROS Alaska Field Office, Ducks Unlimited, the University of Alaska, and the National Wetlands Inventory, his team has completed more mapping in Alaska parks than has been accomplished in the rest of the National Park System combined.

The Alaska GIS team has won many awards, including the international ESRI Special Achievement Award as one of the outstanding GIS sites in the world. George and the GIS team have succeeded because they have built a program based on providing quality service to parks. According to George, "We have built a program, not a monument to a few talented individuals. Staff come and go. The measure of success is when you can survive staff turnover and continue to flourish with an ever-changing cast of characters. The Alaska program has done that. We have succeeded because we built a program based around quality service, a strong database focus, robust software development, and appropriate use of technology."

George was regional I&M coordinator for five years and his team now manages the Alaska I&M Program. He served on the national I&M steering committee, participating in the design of the program and contributing his much needed expertise to the huge challenge of developing data management strategies for the national program. He is active in natural resource management activities and also serves as chair of the Alaska Natural Resources Advisory Council. ■